

Kim Brown  
Educational Philosophy

To me, teaching is both a privilege and an enormous responsibility. As a teacher, I have a colossal potential to influence many lives and engage in shaping future generations. I say this because whatever I do now in my profession was strongly influenced by my own teachers. As such, I want to make a positive impact on my students. I, therefore, endeavor to be dedicated to my students in encouraging them to meet their academic goals and become life-long learners.

I strongly believe that I must reflect on my own values and philosophy as a teacher. This will help me understand my strengths and weaknesses so that I can be an excellent teacher. I aim to offer a classroom environment in which learners are given confidence to articulate their own thoughts and take part in their education experience. In this regard, I aim at nurturing a democratic learning environment as it permits the learners to freely express their views and develop self-confidence. This creates a learner-centered environment where a teacher listens rather than only talk or lecture.

While I emphasize individual responsibility for learning in the class, I also give interpretation and instruction relating to the course materials and subject matter. My aim is to make my classroom an interactive one and to be confronted by the abstract discussion of course material and unearth as well as construct knowledge for themselves. For this to happen, I strongly agree that learning is an active process. Additionally, the diverse backgrounds of my students will make use of a democratic environment I create in my classroom to come up with an array of ideas concerning the course material.

I support the argument that past knowledge, social interactions and motivation influence knowledge construction by learners. As such, I want to make my students feel that they can share their thoughts in relation to the subject matter and be instrumental in developing their educational experience while they are in my classroom. My focus is on making connections between facts and promoting new understanding in learners.

I expect individual students to show commitment by being prepared to take part in class activities. To enhance learner participation, I employ active learning tools to capture learners into class discussions. I use open-ended questions to spark conversations and use the responses of students as a starting point for the theories to be dealt with in the class period. In addition, I undertake to re-channel questions that students put forward in the class to other students. By using such active learning approaches, I aspire to assist my students to recognize they are behind their own education experience.

When my students leave my classroom, I want them to say she cared about me as a person and valued my contributions to class discussions and she created an environment in the classroom which inspired learning and encouraged individual responsibility for education. Most importantly, I want them to truly learn.